Agriculture and Rural Development direct to Panchayat Administration without the intervention of the State Government.

(b) In the meeting of 19th May, 1998 with the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister, West Bengal expressed the need for early implementation of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes pertaining to State subjects to the States with funds. The issue of direct transfer of funds to Panchayats was not raised.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Steps to restructure BIFR

*389. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken for restructuring of BIFR into fast track facilitator and for early detection of sickness in industries; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1997 to replace the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16th May, 1997 lapsed on the dissolution of the 11th Lok Sabha in December, 1997. Action has been initiated to recast the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1997.

Strategy against use of drugs

*390. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the global strategy to fight against drugs adopted in UN meet held in June, 1998;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to fight the menace in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) The United Nations General Assembly adopted unanimously a global strategy setting a ten year target to eradicate demand and supply of illicit narcotic drugs. The main document of the Summit called for a significant reduction in the area of demand for illicit drugs and elimination of illicit drug crops with provision for alternative development. The Resolutions adopted also provide for strong counter-measures to eliminate money laundering, production and abuse of Amphatemines, as well as for enhanced judicial cooperation between Member Nations.

(b) The Government of India welcomes the adoption of global strategy and fully supports it.

(c) All Enforcement agencies are being strengthened. A strict vigil will be maintained by the Government to keep a track on the activities of the drug smugglers, specially in the North Eastern and North West border areas. The Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 is being amended, with the aim of making it more effective.

Problem of black money in the country

*391. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of black money in the country as on 31st March, 1998;

(b) what has been the response of the VDIS;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce similar schemes to unearth black money;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how Government propose to tackle the problem of black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No estimate is available of the amount of Black Money in the country as on 31.3.98. There was a